

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2004/12/20 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100220036-5

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SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

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CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CIA/OCI

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE

ROUTING

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

ITEM NO

WH-01

DATE: 2 MARCH 74

SUBJECT: THE EUROPEAN PRESS ON US REACTION TO EC-ARAB COOPERATION

THE EUROPEAN PRESS VIEWS US REACTION TO EC-ARAB COOPERATION WITH A MIXTURE OF ASTONISHMENT, UNDERSTANDING, AND RESENTMENT.

PARIS NEWSPAPERS LABELED US REACTION AS "DISCONTENT", "IRRITATION", OR "SECRETARIAL FURY." FRANCE-SOIR'S CORRESPONDENT NOTES US OBJECTIONS TO AN ABSENCE OF EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS WITH WASHINGTON AND IMPLIES A PARALLEL IN RECALLING THE ABSENCE OF WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS WITH EUROPE DURING THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. HE WINDS UP ASKING WHETHER US IRRITATION WITH FRANCE "IS LEADING TO DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH PARIS" AND CONCLUDES THIS IS UNLIKELY. THIS

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WOULD DIVIDE EUROPEANS INTO TWO BLOCS, AND "THIS IS NOT HENRY KISSINGER'S OBJECTIVE."

SEVERAL FRENCH PAPERS ASSERT THAT FRANCE HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR PARTICULAR BLAME. LE MONDE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MESSAGE IN CLEAR TERMS IS THAT "EUROPE MUST SPEAK AND ACT ONLY WITH THE ASSENT OF WASHINGTON."

THE WEST GERMAN PRESS NOTES THAT BONN SEEMS TO BE SLIPPING INTO THE UNWELCOME ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN PARIS AND WASHINGTON. THEY REPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES THROUGH IMPROVED CONSULTATION THROUGH TRADITIONAL CHANNELS AND, PERHAPS, BY INVITING PRESIDENT NIXON TO COME TO EUROPE. SEVERAL PAPERS SUGGEST THERE MAY AFTER ALL BE SOMETHING TO FRENCH FEARS THAT THE US WANTS A PERMANENT RIGHT OF INTERVENTION AND VETO IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

THE INFLUENTIAL BONN GENERAL ANZEIGER NOTES THAT "KISSINGER HIMSELF EXPRESSLY AFFIRMED THE NECESSITY OF THE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO STABILIZATION IN THE NEAR EAST." BONN VIEWS THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE AS JUST SUCH A CONTRIBUTION. GERMAN IRRITATION WITH

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THAT IT VIEWS AS WASHINGTON'S ABOUT-FACE IS REFLECTED IN THE ANZEIGER'S COMMENT THAT "NOW, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS NO LONGER PREPARED TO ASCRIBE TO PARIS ALONE THE BLAME FOR THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN DEFINING THE CONCEPT OF 'EQUALITY' IN THE EUROPEAN-AMERICAN DIALOGUE."

THE PRESS TONE IN ITALY IS ONE OF SURPRISE AND UNHAPPINESS OVER HARSH US CRITICISM OF THE EC INITIATIVE, ALTHOUGH SOME APPRECIATION IS SHOWN FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION AMONG ALLIES. SEVERAL PAPERS STRESS THAT EUROPE'S DEPENDENCE ON THE US CONFLICTS WITH ITS DESIRE FOR AUTONOMY.

IN BELGIUM COMMENTARY HAS BEEN GENERALLY CRITICAL OF THE US ALTHOUGH THE FLEMISH SOCIALIST VOLKSGAZET EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING OF THE US POSITION. MOST PAPERS DISCUSS US REACTION AS PART OF WHAT ONE CALLS "THE SMALL FRANCO-AMERICAN WAR."

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